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PU020329 US
Customer # 24498

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for managing at least one storage device, comprising the steps of:

(a) identifying the at least one storage device;

(b) establishing a database containing information about the identified at least one storage device,

wherein the information about the identified at least one storage device includes operating characteristics of the identified at least one storage device;

(c) providing to the user a graphical user interface in accordance with the information in the database, the graphical interface displaying at least one menu option for the identified at least one storage device for the user to select at least one of (i) display of the information about the identified at least one storage device and (ii) execution of at least one process to control the operation of the at least one storage device;

(d) processing the user-selected menu option, said processing further including:

determining if the requested execution of the at least one process complies with the operational rules for the identified at least one storage device, and if not, blocking execution of the at least one process, and generating an error message; and

(e) automatically updating the graphical user interface in response to the processing of the user-selected menu option.

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2.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of identifying the at least one storage device comprises the step of ascertaining a manufacturer and model number for the at least one storage device.

3.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of establishing a database comprises the step of obtaining information that includes at least one of (a) operational rules, (b) commands and (c) processing routines of the one storage device.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of providing a graphical user interface includes the steps of:

displaying icons representative of each identified at least one storage device in a hierarchical fashion in a first pane; and

displaying information in a second pane related to a corresponding one of the icons displayed in the first pane.

6.   (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein steps (d) and (e) are repeated following receipt of each subsequent menu selection made by a user.

7.   (Previously presented) Apparatus for managing at least one storage device, comprising:

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a database containing information about the at least one storage devices,

wherein the information about the at least one storage device includes operating characteristics of the at least one storage device; and

a processor coupled to the at least one storage device for (a) identifying the at least one storage device; (b) providing to a user a graphical user interface in accordance with the information in the database, the graphical interface displaying at least one menu option for the-identified at least one storage device for the user to select at least one of (i) display of information about the identified at least one storage device and (ii) execution of at least one process to control the operation of the at least one storage device; (c) processing the user-selected menu option, by (i) determining if the requested execution of the at least one process complies with the operational rules for the identified at least one storage device, and if not, (ii) blocking execution of the at least one process; and (iii) generating an error message; and (d) automatically updating the graphical user interface in response to the processing of the user-selected menu option.

8.   (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the processor identifies the at least one storage device by ascertaining its manufacturer and model number.

9.   (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the database contains information that includes at least one of (a) operational rules, (b) commands and (c) processing routines of the one storage device.

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10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the processor provides the graphical user interface by (a) displaying icons representative of each identified at least one storage devices in a hierarchical fashion in a first pane; and (b) displaying information in a second pane related a corresponding one of the icons displayed in a first pane.